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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 26 | Min 19 | Humidity 74% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 67,481 | Nifty 20,267 | Gold 63,137 | Silver 76,237 | Dollar 83.22 | Euro 90.65 | GBP 105.80

Mounting civic apathy has arterial roads, vacant public spots, done up spending a lot of money, turning garbage blackspots, overgrown with weeds

THE PLOT SICKENS

Utilise vacant lands for public convenience, citizens request

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PICS: KAUSHIK JN

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been spending a lot of money for the beautification of roads and to safeguard its properties in the city.

Raj Bhavan Road is one of the stretches that was developed a few years ago by spending crores of rupees. The authorities made a provision for planting saplings on either side of Raj Bhavan Road to nurture greenery in the vicinity.

However, it seems now the BBMP authorities have forgotten about the existence of Raj Bhavan Road altogether, if the overgrowing parthenium weeds on the stretch are any indication.

While some of the saplings on Raj Bhavan Road and Infantry (Bhagawan Mahaveer Road) were eaten by stray cattle not so long ago, a portion of the vacant space adjacent to the footpath near Cubbon Park metro station is full of weeds, including parthenium that causes various allergies.

Pedestrians said the BBMP should clear parthenium weeds

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

> **"It is the responsibility of BBMP to clear weeds or direct authority concerned to ensure the land is free from weeds**
> — Ravi P, pedestrian

Raiders of lost parks

Ensure parks are kept open during all hours, except during maintenance, citizens urge municipal body

| Rachana Ramesh
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Residents across several neighbourhoods of Bengaluru complained of parks under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) remaining closed between 10 am and 5 pm.

They urged the municipal body to ensure the parks are kept open during all hours, except during maintenance hours, for the citizens in specific localities to make use of the facility.

Nithin Krishna, a physiotherapist from the city, took to X (formerly Twitter): "Being a Sunday, I thought of taking my kid to a nearby park. Reached Wipro park, Koramangala 1st block at 10 am and the park got closed at 10:10 am. What great timings our parks have – 5 am to 10 am. Does BBMP expect kids to play at 5 am?," he wondered.

"Bengaluru is filled with concrete buildings. Whatever little green space is available, is being closed at 10 am itself. Where will kids play? What about their health? We need to promote outdoor activities for better health of all individuals," he added.

Krishna further said the closing of parks during the day does not benefit residents and in turn indicates the poor quality

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Canine show

Don't miss the opportunity to get into the world of dogs, as Silicon City Kennel Club, Bengaluru, is presenting the All India Championship Dog Show in association with Bangalore Canine Club. Some of the international experts will be judging the show. **Where: Hockey ground, Veterinary College campus, Hebbal; When: Today; 9 am to 5 pm**

02 Illuminating zone

Don't miss the chance to attend a unique exhibit, Deepotsav: Tales of Light, where you can explore more than 200 rare lamps. These lamps are sourced from different parts of India and Sri Lanka. The exhibition also features exquisite Tanjore and Pichwai paintings, highlighting the traditional essence of regional Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan. **Where: The Purple Turtles, Indiranagar; When: Until December 10**

03 Craft season

Get your hands on quality products at the sale-cum-echibition of arts and crafts materials, hosieries, and handloom items. Souz Market Arts and Crafts Convention brings handloom sarees, decorative articles that adorn gardens, kurtis, and exquisite jewellery made by artists from different parts of the country. **Where: Chitrakala Parishath; When: Today**

Time to learn

Citizens participating in a mock fire drill by the firefighters organised by the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services Department at a high-rise building in Bengaluru on Saturday

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Greenery in digits: Every tree matters

City's first-ever tree census is set to begin this week; project anticipated to be wrapped up by March 2024

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In March 2024, Bengaluru will be done and dusted with its first-ever tree census. According to the Forest Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the vendor selection process is in its last stage, and the census will begin in the first week of December.

"We have received eight bids in response to eight tenders floated for all zones within the BBMP limit. We have selected a vendor in principle too. However, we are conducting a check on the technical feasibility. Once that is out of the way, a work order will be issued, and the census will begin in the coming week. It has been communicated to the vendor that the project has to be wrapped up by March 2024," said BLG Swamy, deputy conservator of forest, BBMP.

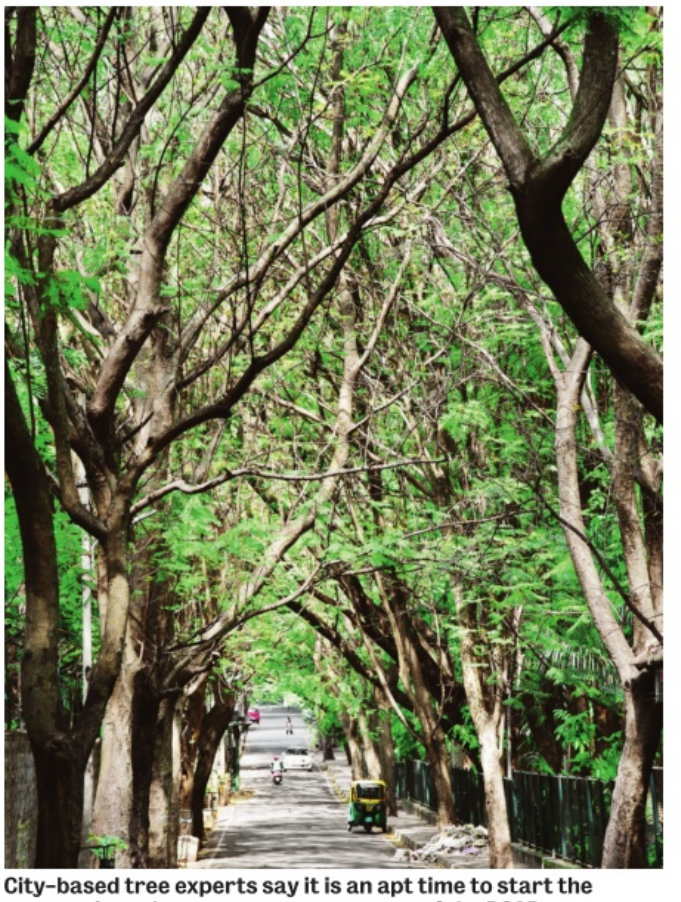
To carry out the much-awaited tree census of Bengaluru after a delay of more than four years, the civic agency has divided the city into eight zones of approximately 1,000 sq km each and floated a tender a month ago for the enumeration of an estimated 20.8 lakh trees in the city, covering an area of 9761.6 sq km. The fund allocated for the project, expected to be completed by March, is a little over Rs 3.74 crore. City-based tree experts and environmentalists say it is an apt time to start the census given the recent announcement of the Bengaluru Climate Action Plan (BCAP) by the BBMP.

"It is important that the project gets initiated as soon as possible, especially after it has been long pending. The outcome can be used to modify or strengthen BCAP as well. The results will also give a clear picture of the city's current green cover and will also guide decision-makers in devising a strategy to balance development and green cover for a sustainable Bengaluru of the future," said Vijay Nishant, a member of Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee and founder of Project Vruksha.

> **"We have received eight bids in response to eight tenders floated for all zones within the BBMP limit**
> – BLG Swamy, Deputy conservator of forest, BBMP

BangaloreMirror
Tree census: BBMP finally readies to get counting

BM's report on September 22 about BBMP in the process of floating a tender for census



City-based tree experts say it is an apt time to start the census given the recent announcement of the BCAP

However, the census will deviate a bit from the full-fledged process, as suggested by some environmentalists and organisations in the past. According to officials from the forest department, the census will focus on the number of trees in the city and will document five parameters—girth, unique tree ID, species name, GPS location, and photograph—of each tree.

"This kind of exercise cannot be done multiple times. Thus, it is necessary that the result be comprehensive and the process not be reduced to a formality. Although there is no doubt that the project should be completed as soon as possible, the idea behind conducting this exercise should not be diluted," said Dattatreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust.

Speed thrills, kills on B'luru roads

Traffic Police intensify efforts to address rising accidents by focusing on curbing speeding and promoting lane discipline among motorists in the city

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Bengaluru traffic grapples with over 400 monthly accidents

According to traffic police data, Bengaluru records more than 400 accidents every month. While the reasons for these accidents may vary, police officials have said that over-speeding and lack of lane discipline seem to play a major role in increasing accidents.

On December 2, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), South, Shiva Prakash Devaraju, visited spots of two fatal accidents. The first accident happened on NICE Road and another in Ganigarapalya in Thalaghattapura traffic police station limits.

After the police visited the spot and talked to the local traffic police, it was found that over-speeding and not following lane discipline were the major causes of these accidents.

The DCP traffic told BM that approximately 10 to 15 accidents happen on NICE Road in his limits yearly, and another 10 to 15 occur in the outskirts.

The major vehicles involved in these accidents on NICE Road are cars and heavy transport vehicles.

"After the visit, it was ascertained that the main reasons for accidents at both places are over-speeding and lack of lane discipline. For example, in the two recent accidents that happened on the NICE road, an auto dashed a two-wheeler from behind; it was not following lane discipline. The other accident happened in the outskirts where it was a self-accident where the car, due to overspeed, rammed into a divider," said Devaraju.

He also added that due to this, the police have started drives regarding the enforcement of rash driving of heavy transport vehicles.

Traffic expert MN Sreehari says that the police must start seizing vehicles and taking away people's driving licenses.

"People get a driving license in a few days in the city but it should be taken seriously. In some countries getting a license is more difficult than passing a degree, and it must be ensured because your life depends on it. The officials must physically be present at such spots and seize the vehicle, and then only the people will realise," he said.

He added that there is also a need for radar cameras at multiple places so that they can record the vehicle number.

"If the vehicle number reaches the police record, the police can send a notice and ask the offender to give his vehicle and license because they were breaking the rules and endangering not only their lives but also others' lives on the road," he added.

In October 2023, Bengaluru recorded 2,043 speeding and 65,463 lane discipline cases.

Car crash claims one in Doddaballapur

A terrible accident resulted in the death of one person and another serious injury in Doddaballapur.

The incident took place near Doddaballapur taluk of Bengaluru Rural district. Sivakumar (32), a resident of Bagalagunte, who was in the car, died in the accident. Another person in the car, Anantharam (37), was seriously injured.

The injured are being treated at Doddaballapur Government Hospital. The police rushed to the spot after people dialled 112. The driver of the other vehicle fled from the spot when the accident took place and the police are trying to ascertain the driver's information.

Foeticide: Probe reveals gruesome details

The Karnataka government recently handed over the investigation of the female foeticide scam to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The investigation into the scam has revealed some shocking truths.

The police said that Manjula, the arrested head nurse, revealed that the 12-week-old foetuses were thrown into dustbins along with medical waste and in four days, they would decompose.

Manjula worked at the Matha Hospital in Mysuru, where the abortions were conducted. She told the police that she used to carry out 70 abortions every month.

Police said that the accused was carrying out abortions for six months.

The accused determined foetal gender at six months; caesareans were conducted for delayed extraction of the female foetus. —IANS

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Paws panic as BBMP still on quest for land

Following the Revenue Department's refusal, BBMP turns to Karnataka government for support for ABC Centre

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After the Revenue Department refused a parcel of land to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for its Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre in Mahadevpura, the Palike has now reached out to the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) of the government of Karnataka with the request. In this regard, the Animal Husbandry Department sent a letter to the office of the ACS last week.

"We have not been able to secure land for an ABC Centre in the Mahadevpura zone and the hunt for it is still on. Last week we contacted the ACS and sent a proposal for two parcels of land in Mahadevapura and Bommanahalli zones. This was after we did not get any help from the Revenue Department," said Dr Ravi Kumar, Joint Director of the Animal Husbandry Department, BBMP.

While BBMP had an ABC Centre in the Mahadevapura zone, it was shut down nearly nine months ago. Since then, dogs from the Mahadevapura have been brought to Yelahanka ABC Centre for birth control surgeries. Officials say complaints regarding street dog issue from the area is constantly pouring in. Incidentally, Mahadevpura also has the highest population of street dogs in the city. As per the latest dog census report, while the total street dog population of Bengaluru is 2.79 lakh, over 58,000 street dogs are in the zone.

"We are receiving many complaints regarding the street dog issue and also regarding the ABC Centre responsible for managing the street dog population in the area. Currently, we are attending to emergency cases from the Yelahanka Centre, which is not a long-term option looking at the distance. We are aware that Mahadevapura has the highest population of street dogs and thus we have deputed two assistant directors for the zone," added Dr Kumar.

> **"Currently, we are attending to emergency cases from the Yelahanka Centre, which is not a long-term option looking at the distance** – Dr Ravi Kumar, Joint Director, Animal Husbandry Department, BBMP

City-based animal welfare activists suggest the Palike should expedite the process and explore condemned land for the Centre as getting a normal piece of land will be difficult for this purpose.

"Both Yelahanka and RR Nagar centres are already located near crematoriums. The centre in Dasarahalli is next to a huge garbage sorting facility. Getting a good piece of land for an ABC Centre will be difficult as people look down upon and consider them as a nuisance. BBMP should expedite the process and get the centre readied as soon as possible. It is impractical to keep transporting dogs to Yelahanka for ABC surgeries. Mahadevpura area's street dog population is on the verge of exploding," said Nandita Subba Rao, Citizens for Animal Birth Control.

BBMP urgently requests land for a new Animal Birth Control Centre in Mahadevpura to tackle the increasing street dog population

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

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Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Nightly nuisance

Jayanagar

The sewage issue at 9th Main, 5th Block, opposite Bank of Baroda has been ongoing for a month. At night, people resort to urinating, affecting the road's condition. BBMP intervention is needed.

Litter urgency

Yelahanka

Garbage is scattered along Anantpur Gate road near Prestige Montecarlo Apartments. Authorities need to take steps to ensure the cleanliness of the area.

Plastic tiles pave eco-path in Mysuru

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It's time for Bengaluru to learn from Mysuru's innovative use of plastic waste. While Bengaluru previously experimented with plastic roads, Mysuru has pioneered in creating plastic pavements. Outsourcing the project, the Mysuru administration repurposed approximately two tonnes of plastic into tiles for pavements. The Mysuru civic agency, teaming up with a local company, has converted around 350 tonnes of single-use plastic waste, previously improperly disposed of, and has been repurposed into fireproof, heat-resistant tiles. These tiles now grace the pavements of the heritage city, showcasing an eco-friendly initiative that not only repurposes plastic waste but also reduces the carbon footprint, according to officials.

Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner, Asad Ur Rahman Sharif said, "We have provided around 350 tonnes of plastic waste to a private company, which has processed and converted it into 100 tonnes of plastic tiles. By doing so, we have reduced our carbon footprint, making it an eco-friendly measure." There are plans to patent these plastic tiles, adding another layer of innovation to the environmentally conscious initiative.

Mysuru's plastic waste finds new life as durable tiles

The manufacturing process of plastic tiles begins with the segregation of plastic waste collected by pourakarmikas. Subsequently, the separated plastic is further cut and placed into another machine, where it is compressed into a semi-solid form. Approximately 2.5 kg of plastic waste is transformed into around 2 kg of plastic tiles through this process. The production cost for a single tile ranges from Rs 85 to Rs 90, offering a cost-effective alternative to market prices, where each cement tile is priced at Rs 115. Officials highlight that these plastic tiles serve as a durable substitute for cement tiles

> **"We have provided around 350 tonnes of plastic waste to a private company, which has processed and converted it into 100 tonnes of plastic tiles** – Asad Ur Rahman Sharif, Mysuru City Corporation

Meanwhile, experts criticise the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for its failure to effectively curb the use of single-use plastic. Despite the initial plan to phase out single-use plastic by 2022, there has been no apparent success even beyond the end of 2023. The Centre had previously implemented a ban on the manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of various single-use plastic items, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene, effective from July 1, 2022. These items encompassed earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene (Thermocol) for decoration, plates, cups, glasses, cutlery (forks, spoons, knives), straws, trays, wrapping or packaging films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 microns, and stirrers.

"To address littering caused by lightweight plastic carry bags, the thickness of these bags was increased from fifty microns to seventy-five microns effective from September 30, 2021. Furthermore, the thickness was further enhanced to 120 microns from December 31, promoting the reuse of plastic carry bags due to the increased thickness. Plastic packaging waste not covered under the phase-out of identified single-use plastic items will be collected and managed in an environmentally sustainable manner through the Extended Producer Responsibility of the Producer, Importer, and Brand Owner (PIBO), following the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016," an expert said.

Fear in the classroom

City schools administrations worried about online leakage of crucial data; police request schools to tighten security

Dog squad, bomb squad alongside police at a city school after it received a hoax bomb threat on Saturday

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> **This is a calculated attempt to instill fear in educational institutions. An investigation is needed to know how perpetrators accessed sensitive information**
>
> –D Shashi Kumar, KAMS

On Friday, there were threats to schools involving bombs, and this has made people ask two important questions. First, they want to know how the person who made the threats got access to the detailed email addresses of the schools. Secondly, a revisit of safety measures, including the contentious proposal of installing CCTV cameras and metal detectors—a measure previously met with resistance from various schools.

D Shashi Kumar, General Secretary of the Association of Management of Primary and Secondary Schools of Karnataka (KAMS), said, "This is a calculated attempt to instill fear in educational institutions, constituting a clear violation of the POCSO Act. A thorough police investigation is essential to determine how the perpetrators accessed sensitive school information to send threatening emails. Our suspicion lies with the open accessibility of institution details on the education department's website. We vehemently oppose this and urge the education department to reconsider keeping school information in the public domain."

Meanwhile, police are suggesting the schools increase their security measures. The police advocate for the reinforcement of security measures in schools, citing previous notices issued under the Karnataka Public Safety (Measures) Enforcement Act 2017. Schools are mandated to install safety and security equipment, encompassing metal detectors, CCTV cameras, and electronic access control devices. The police note details technical specifications for the equipment and stress the appointment of trained personnel for their operation.

In fact, many schools and colleges have already implemented security measures, with some utilising handheld scanners for outsiders, and parental entry is rigorously regulated and guarded. Metal detectors and hand-held metal detectors (HHMD) have been integral components of security protocols on many educational campuses for an extended period of time. Certain college campuses have already established a system where students pass through narrow gates, allowing security personnel to meticulously check bags and screen students using handheld metal detectors. Any observed suspicious activity is promptly reported to higher authorities. Some of the institutes are even considering the installation of scanning/X-ray machines at campus entrances. This initiative aims to facilitate thorough bag frisking as a disciplinary and precautionary measure against drug abuse on campus. As of now, the state boasts a considerable educational landscape, encompassing 17,256 schools catering to a student population of 46.63 lakh.

However, a few school associations convey a willingness to adopt CCTV cameras while raising concerns about the practicality of implementing metal detectors across all schools.

A school principal said, "Metal detectors pose challenges for students, considering they already possess photo IDs for recognition. Subjecting their bags to scanning may not be prudent, as there's a need for trust within our student community. We have diligently adhered to other security measures, including CCTV cameras, security personnel, and identity cards, as recommended by the police. While we acknowledge the perceived straightforward nature of introducing metal detectors, the larger hurdle lies in convincing students to undergo this process, recognising the potential resistance or concerns that may arise among the student body."

P Usha, a chemistry lecturer and parent, shared her perspective on the recent incident, stating, "While the threat on Friday and the subsequent holiday may seem to have passed without incident, it was a day filled with trauma for all stakeholders. Teachers had the challenging task of ensuring the safety of the children. It's disheartening to think that one email perpetrator could cause such widespread disruption—truly unpardonable."

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ORION MALL (RAJAJINAGAR) | GOPALAN ARCH MALL (MYSORE ROAD) | INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX (MARATHAHALLI)
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THE SUNDAY READ

Hazard on horizon

K'taka produced almost 40% more hazardous waste as compared to previous years

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A record 5,06,582 MT of hazardous waste (HW) was produced in Karnataka in 2021-22, up nearly by 40% as compared to the second-highest amount generated by the state during 2018-19, according to a report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

As per the report, the quantity of HW generated in Karnataka in 2016-17 was nearly 3.37 lakh MT, in 2017-18 it was 3.15 lakh MT, in 2018-19 it was 3.62 lakh MT, and in 2020-21 it was just 2.93 lakh MT. Out of the total of over 5.06 lakh MT of HW, the state recycled nearly 1.19 lakh MT, utilised a little over 2.71 lakh MT, and the rest was either incinerated or sent to secure landfill facilities.

Hazardous wastes belong to a category of special wastes containing certain chemicals, metals, and pathogenic organisms which can cause damage to the environment even at low concentrations. If not properly managed for safe disposal, it can have frightening environmental repercussions. Indiscriminate disposal of these wastes into the environment without proper treatment could lead to pollution of river water, land, and groundwater resources.

Solid waste management experts say, looking at the high amount of HW being generated, more stringent targets should be set for producers to collect and safely dispose of HW.

"Since household HW has also been added to the category, the total quantity of HW generated could have gone up. However, since management of HW is a tricky affair, the Extended Producer Responsibility for this category of waste should be made more stringent and robust," said V Ramprasad, a city-based SWM expert.

Currently, Karnataka has 3,850 hazardous waste generating units. It also falls in the top 10 hazardous waste-generating states in the country.

Dispose with care

Experts say this category of waste needs to be disposed of securely as it is also released at the household level and can hurt the environment and human health. They opine HW should be segregated at source and collected by urban local bodies and municipalities separately. There is a need for a detailed action plan to spread awareness regarding segregation of HW and proper disposal

"While some percentage of HW produced by industries is still being taken care of by recycling and reutilisation, there is no initiative for HW produced at household level. While three categories of waste, including sanitary waste, are being segregated in Bengaluru, HW is not attended to. This is even though it is a more dangerous category of waste. Urban local bodies and municipalities must come up with data on household HW with the help of segregation centres and come up with an action plan on segregation at source followed by safe disposal. This is the need of the hour as currently household HW is getting mixed with dry and wet waste and landing in landfills," said Rajesh Babu, co-founder of Swachha Eco Solutions.

Hazardous wastes belong to category of special wastes containing some chemicals, metals, pathogenic organisms that can cause damage to the environment even at low concentrations; improper disposal can have disastrous consequences

The government of India has notified Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to ensure safe handling, generation, processing, treatment, packaging, storage, transportation, collection, and disposal of hazardous and other waste.

"Urban local bodies and municipalities must come up with data on household hazardous waste with the help of segregation centres and draw an action plan on segregation at source followed by safe disposal. Currently, household HW is getting mixed with dry and wet waste and landing in landfills

–Rajesh Babu, Swachha Eco Solutions

320 new buses for disabled to hit road

| Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) will soon be rolling out 320 disabled-friendly Electric Vehicles (EV) with retractable ramps under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model.

BMTC has called a tender for the selection of a Service Provider for Procurement, Operation and Maintenance of 320 low-floor, 400mm floor height city type AC Electric Buses on GCC Model under the scheme special assistance to states for capital investment 2023-24. In August 2023, BMTC launched 75 out of 300 non-AC, 12m EV buses by Switch Mobility Automotive Ltd, which were also disabled friendly.

Use of Li-ion or Li-ion Phosphate Battery or Li NMC or superior batteries should only consume less than 1.3 kWh per kilometre of power. The battery should have the capacity to operate 200 km on a single charge at 80% SOC and opportunity charge for 45 minutes with an assured distance of 225-km per day. The buses will have to be charged overnight for a maximum of two hours. The bidder will also be required to build and maintain the required charging infrastructure at depots.

The buses will be fitted with an automatic tracking device and Emergency Button/Automatic Tracking Device. For the safety of women, there will be four cameras, a Panic/ SOS button, which when pressed, sends out alerts to the BMTC ITS application. The button should be able to issue 30 seconds video before and after the panic/ SOS button press to the command centre.

As per the contract, the buses will have to run 78,750 km annually.

As of now, a total of four depots have been chosen i.e. Depot-7 (SubhashNagar), Depot-13 (Katriguppe), Depot-18 (Whitefield) and Depot-25 (HSR layout) are identified by the authority.

Tying the knot with tight security

Bouncers take centre stage as the newest norm this wedding season

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

As the wedding season reaches its peak, there is a notable surge in the demand for bouncers. Interestingly, it has become increasingly common for wedding parties to hire bouncers, a practice that was unheard of in the past. These bouncers are now seen managing the crowd on stage, particularly during receptions. Wedding planners have observed that previously, only extravagant weddings would consider hiring bouncers. However, now even mid-sized weddings are opting for their services. Consequently, with the growing demand, many well-built individuals are taking up part-time jobs as bouncers.

Shivaji S, who recently organised his daughter's wedding, shared his experience, saying, "Some time ago, I attended a friend's wedding and witnessed a situation where the crowd started entering the stage, causing embarrassment for both the groom and the bride. This created a stressful atmosphere for the couple, and they did not look their best either. Additionally, many people would jostle to take selfies, which often became troublesome. So, for my daughter's wedding, I decided to hire bouncers to regulate who enters the crowd."

RG Murugendrappa added, "During a recent wedding in Bengaluru, I witnessed bouncers maintaining peace as a few individuals tried to create a ruckus. Therefore, I also decided to hire bouncers for my son's wedding."

Wedding bouncers, once a luxury, are now a common sight

"As weddings have picked up after the pandemic, this opportunity helps us earn a little extra
– Rishan S, part-time wedding bouncer

Sources indicate that wedding planners typically hire three to four bouncers per wedding. While prices may vary, wedding planners usually pay around Rs 9,000 for a three-member team per wedding. Additionally, organisers are required to arrange lodging facilities for the bouncers, as weddings often span from the reception the previous day to the afternoon of the wedding day.

Rishan S, a part-time wedding bouncer, shared, "We usually train in gyms. These days, we receive numerous requests to work part-time as bouncers for weddings. As weddings have picked up after the pandemic, this opportunity helps us earn a little extra."

"During the wedding reception, we have seen people try to rush to greet the couple and it becomes quite difficult to manage the crowd. Many times, the family members try to regulate the crowd but it is very difficult for them to stop the relatives. However, on the other hand, bouncers can play a good role as they are outsiders and their macho image helps them to rein in the unruly crowd. Moreover, the hiring of bouncers will also make the wedding grand. When we spend lakhs of rupees for weddings, paying another Rs 10,000 for bouncers may not be a big burden. This is the reason why we are seeing this trend of bouncers being spotted at weddings. Many gym goers are now reaching out to us if we can provide them with part-time jobs for bouncers as it is an easy route for them to earn money as well," said Raju R, a wedding planner.

Bouncers' demand extends beyond nightlife to events with politicians, celebrities, banks, hospitals, sports, reflecting a broader need for security services in diverse settings, wedding planners added.

Leopard cub killed by a pack of dogs

A pack of dogs attacked and killed an eight-month-old leopard cub in Karnataka's Tumakuru district. The leopard cub was discovered in Mavukere village and was earlier spotted in the Kora Hobli region, causing concern among villagers. Locals had informed the forest department authorities multiple times about the presence of the leopard cub.

However, they alleged that the authorities did not respond. The villagers of Mavukere noticed the cub being attacked by dogs on Friday evening.

Despite managing to escape from the pack of dogs, it succumbed to injuries, and its body was found nearby. Postmortem results confirmed that the leopard cub's death was due to the attack by the dogs. Animal activists have blamed the forest department's negligence for the leopard cub's death. –IANS

Namma Yatri expands to Tumakuru

Bengaluru-based Namma Yatri (NY), a community-led ride-booking app operating under the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), launched in Tumakuru on December 1. With over 300 drivers joining, Tumakuru is positioned as a potential model for community-led mobility solutions. Namma Yatri emphasises direct connections, full payment to drivers, and adherence to government guidelines. Naveen Kumar, an auto-driver and community ambassador in Tumakuru, highlighted the city's need for digital transformation and praised the app's convenience, fair pricing, and customer feedback features.

BM Health Consumer connect initiative

Health dept's guidelines on respiratory illnesses

The Karnataka Health Department has recently issued a health advisory in response to a noticeable surge in respiratory illnesses. The move comes on the heels of reports highlighting an increase in such cases, particularly among children in China. In their advisory, the health department sought to allay concerns by asserting that the escalation in respiratory illnesses is likely attributed to common causes such as influenza, Mycoplasma Pneumonia, and SARS-CoV-2, among others. They emphasise that there's no evidence pointing to the involvement of any unusual pathogen.

Directive to district health officers

All health facilities, including private ones, have been instructed to report instances of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) on a designated portal. The emphasis is on prompt reporting and ensuring appropriate sample collection for accurate diagnosis. A crucial aspect highlighted is the vigilant implementation of operational guidelines for revised surveillance strategies related to COVID-19.

Surveillance units monitoring

District Surveillance Units under District Surveillance Officers (DSOs) are urged to closely monitor trends in ILI and SARI cases. "Any unusual increase is to be reported promptly for swift intervention. Ensuring the availability of an adequate stock of

essential medications, including Oseltamivir, and sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers is underscored. The directive also mandates the compulsory use of face masks by all healthcare workers in both public and private health facilities", the guidelines said.

Hospital preparedness

Hospitals designated for handling COVID-19 cases, both government and private, are instructed to conduct self-audits. These audits are meant to evaluate critical medical infrastructure, manpower, and the availability of resources such as oxygen beds, ventilators, and medical supplies. The advisory stresses the importance of strengthening community surveillance for early detection of unusual cases and outbreaks. This involves a focus on event-based surveillance through media scanning and indicator-based surveillance through the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) reporting.

Testing protocols and data reporting

In cases of SARI deaths with a negative COVID-19 test, a panel of tests, including those for Influenza, SARS-CoV-2, and Adenovirus is recommended. Additionally, Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratories are mandated to report testing data on the designated IHIP portal.

Advisory to the general public

The health advisory emphasises handwashing, mask usage, and social distancing, urging individuals with flu symptoms to seek medical assistance and avoid self-medication.

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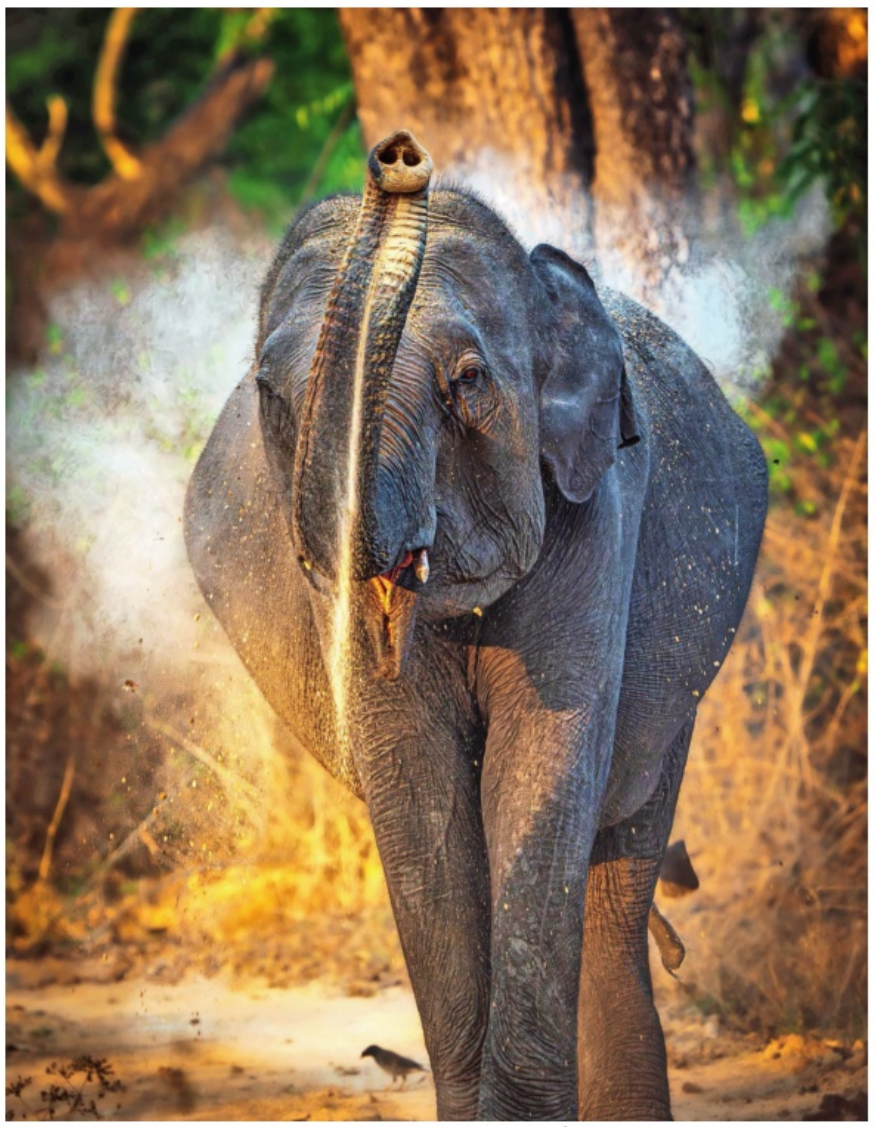
BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO



POWER OF DUST

An elephant mud-bathing in Bandipur National Park

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Dilip N Gowda**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

VV Puram Food Street is one of the popular destinations for foodies in Bengaluru. This street has more than 20 food stalls, serving various street food, including South Indian, North Indian and Chinese dishes. People tend to hop to this place, especially on weekends with their friends and family members, and the place has a great vibrant vibe. The place also hosts Avarekai Mela in the winter months of December and January. You can find various dishes prepared with avarekai or hyacinth beans.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

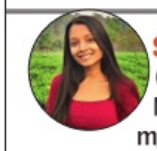
TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

What is your favourite memory associated with Bengaluru?

Priyantika, BM Reader
My favourite memory will be the comic con I attended last year in Whitefield. I met a lot of people with amazing cosplays. It reminded me of school annual functions where we got to dress up and just have fun.

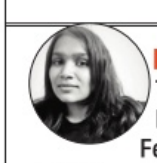
Surbhi, BM Reader
Once, I went for a staycation at the Radisson Hotel in Bengaluru, and it reminded me of the urban charm of the city.



Suhani Goel, BM Reader
Church Street and the Chinese at Mandarin Box have been one of my favourites and have become a memory of my stay.

Cyreka Khatuwoda, BM Reader
My favourite memory associated with Bengaluru is watching the sunset. It has a calming effect.

Cheewang, BM Reader
One of my favourite memories of Bengaluru is a visit to Lalbagh. The serene beauty and lush greenery reminded me of the city's reputation as the Garden City of India.



Esita Rani, BM Reader
The vibrant atmosphere of events like the Bengaluru Open Air Music Festival reflects the city's lively spirit.

SPEAK TO US

How has Bengaluru's cultural diversity influenced your daily life?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Seamless gate access denied!

Residents of Doddaballapur raise concerns about sudden cessation of free access passes to move through Kadathanamale toll gate

| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents living in housing societies and apartment complexes on Doddaballapur Main Road complain about toll authorities abruptly ending free access passes to navigate through the Kadathanamale toll gate. Many locals have received free access passes over the last few months. "My neighbour got a free access pass a couple of months ago. However, when I reached out to the toll gate authorities, I was denied this facility," said a resident of the area. According to SR Vishwanath, Yelahanka MLA, the toll gate contractor was directed a year ago to provide free passes to those living within a 4-km radius, and quite a few passes were issued as well.

"If you have a voter ID card with an address that falls within a four- to five-kilometre radius of the toll gate, you should get a free pass. We took up the issue last year and got a few free passes for some residents in the area. It is time that Karnataka Road Development Corporation (KRDCL) intervenes, issues clear instructions to the contractor, and makes the scheme available to people," said Vishwanath. Locals also complain about absurd rules narrated by toll collectors, making it difficult to avail of the monthly pass facility. "I live within a 2-kilometre radius of the toll gate and use it occasionally. Earlier, the standard practice was to produce an address proof, and the toll booth in-charge would let you go through. However, the monthly pass is mandatory now," said a resident living in the vicinity of the toll gate.

Residents of Doddaballapur are facing toll gate accessibility issues

Authorities at Kadathanamale toll gate, a PPP project shared between the state government and Ramlinga Construction, gave free passes to locals, an initiative taken up by the toll gate contractor. However, it is being rolled back due to the lack of revenue. "We were issuing free passes up until four months ago. However, we have stopped doing that as we started losing revenue. There is a lot of demand for free toll passes by the locals, but we will not entertain these demands. There is no rule to provide free passes to residents," said Mahesh Babu, manager of Kadathanamale toll gate. When BM reached out to KRDCL officials, they clarified, "Locals will have to take unlimited monthly passes that can be availed of at a minimal fee. They can produce their ID and address proofs to avail facility."

COP28 CLIMATE SUMMIT

Breakthrough deal: Poor nations will get damages

Experts question effectiveness of 'loss and damage' fund

Participating world leaders and delegates pose for a family photo during the summit in Dubai on Saturday

Day one of the COP28 climate summit saw the first big breakthrough: agreement on a "loss and damage" fund to compensate poor states for the effects of climate change.

Met with a standing ovation in Dubai, the agreement means wealthy states and major polluters will put millions of dollars towards a fund that will in turn distribute funds to poor states harmed by climate change. The fund will be administered by the World Bank. Initial commitments amount to US$430 million.

It will come as a huge relief to the United Arab Emirates, the summit's host. The country was under pressure even before talks began about its fossil fuel expansion plans and the fact the president of the climate talks is chief executive of a national oil company. This undoubtedly featured in the UAE's decision to commit US$100 million to the fund.

Other countries to make initial commitments to the fund include the United Kingdom ($75 million), United States ($24.5 million), Japan ($10 million) and Germany (also US$100 million). Pressure will now build on other wealthy countries, including Australia, to outline their own commitments to the fund.

What's the history of the fund?

The Loss and Damage Fund was first suggested by Vanuatu in 1991.

At the heart of the push for this fund is a recognition that those countries likely to be most affected by climate change are the least responsible for the problem itself. The fund would ensure those who created the problem of climate change – developed states and major emitters – would compensate those experiencing its most devastating effects.

With global warming now locked in and

It will come as a huge relief to the UAE as it was under pressure about its fossil fuel expansion plans. This featured in the UAE's decision to commit US$100 million to the fund

effects already being felt, from natural disasters to rising sea levels, the fund also recognises the world has failed to prevent climate change from happening. A commitment to establish such a fund was one of the most important outcomes of last year's climate talks in Egypt. Since then, a series of meetings had taken place to try to secure international agreement about how the fund would work, who would commit to it, and who would be eligible to receive funds. These meetings have been characterised by significant disagreement over each of these points.

In that sense, the COP28 announcement is a welcome and significant breakthrough.

Questions remain There's still a lot that needs clarifying about this fund. Some of the big outstanding questions include the fund's size, its relationship to other funds, how it will be administered over the long term, and what its funding priorities will be.

In response to the announcement, leading African think-tank representative Mohamad Adhow noted there were "no hard deadlines, no targets, and countries are not obligated to pay into it, despite the whole point being for rich, high-polluting nations to support vulnerable communities who have suffered from climate impacts".

There is also concern about the World Bank's role in overseeing the fund in the first instance. Developing countries expressed opposition to this idea in the lead up to COP28, questioning the World Bank's environmental credentials and the transparency of its operations.

While initial funding may seem generous, most analysts would also agree this fund is a long way from covering the full range of effects. Some estimates suggest the costs of climate-related harms are already at $400 billion annually for developing states: roughly 1,000 times the amount initially pledged.

Finally, we should not assume pledges will actually translate to countries putting their hands in their pocket. The Green Climate Fund announced in 2009 – designed to help developing states with their transition away from fossil fuels and to help with adaptation initiatives – included a commitment for developed states to provide $100 billion per year by 2020. They fell well short of this goal.

The legacy

Agreement on this fund is a good thing in recognising the inequality at the heart of the causes and effects of climate change, and may ultimately be one of the key outcomes of these talks.

Early agreement also means it cannot be used as a bargaining chip over other crucial parts of these negotiations. Now the talks can now focus on the assessment of progress towards meeting commitments to the Paris Agreement, which aims to hold warming to 1.5°C to limit further dangerous levels of climate change.

Whether the UAE organisers and the rest of the world take up this challenge effectively will determine the effectiveness of these talks, and quite possibly the fate of the planet.

(By Matt McDonald, The University of Queensland, The Conversation)

Over 120 countries back Climate and Health Declaration

Finally, the Vijayanagar district administration has decided to take tough action against fake guides who are tarnishing the image of UNESCO world heritage site Hampi.

VOver 120 countries backed the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health on Saturday, delivering a breakthrough moment for health in climate talks.

The COP28 Presidency joined with the World Health Organization to announce the declaration to accelerate actions to protect people's health from growing climate impacts.

The declaration was announced at the World Climate Action Summit, where world leaders have gathered for the start of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai.

Signed by 123 countries, the declaration is announced one day ahead of the first ever Health Day at a COP and marks a world first in acknowledging the need for governments to protect communities and prepare healthcare systems to cope with climate-related health impacts such as extreme heat, air pollution and infectious diseases.

The declaration was developed with the support of a number of 'country champions', including Brazil, Malawi, the UK, the US, the Netherlands, Kenya, Fiji, India, Egypt, Sierra Leone, and Germany.

A display is visible with wind turbines at the COP28 UN Climate Summit on Saturday, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

This joint action comes as annual deaths from polluted air hit almost nine million and as 189 million people are exposed to extreme weather-related events each year.

"The impacts of climate change are already at our door. They have become one of the greatest threats to human health in the 21st century. Governments have now rightly recognized health as a crucial element of climate action," said COP28 President Sultan Al Jaber.

He continued "the declaration sends a strong signal that we must reduce global emissions and work together to strengthen our health systems". "The climate crisis is a health crisis, but for too long, health has been a footnote in climate discussions," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization.

"The WHO thanks the UAE for making health a priority in its COP28 Presidency, and welcomes this declaration, which emphasises the need to build climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems, to protect the health of both planet and people. he declaration covers a range of action areas at the nexus of climate and health, including building more climate-resilient health systems, strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration to reduce emissions and maximize the health benefits of climate action, and increasing finance for climate and health solutions. **–IANS**

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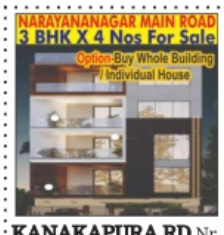

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GET NOTICED

Empty plots, roads overgrown with weeds...

KAUSHIK JN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which have become an eyesore and a health hazard for those who come into contact while walking on the footpaths.

"It seems the vacant space was acquired by BMRCL but it is the responsibility of the BBMP either to clear the parthenium weeds or direct the BMRCL to ensure the vacant land is free from weeds," said Ravi P, a pedestrian.

Criticising the BBMP chief commissioner for not visiting important roads in the city, S Amaresh of Mahiti Adhyayana Kendra demanded the chief commissioner direct the BBMP health or solid waste management department to ensure cleanliness in the city.

"The BBMP chief commissioner has no time to visit important roads in the city to ensure cleanliness. Initially, the chief commissioner used to be busy visiting many areas in the city. Now, he confines himself to his office and rarely visits any areas. If he visits various areas in the city on a regular basis, BBMP engineers and officials work with dedication and commitment," said Amaresh.

Another location that has become an eyesore and a health hazard for residents and pedestrians is a BBMP property situated on Swami Vivekananda Road near Halasuru metro station.

Once the place had a BBMP office for issuing birth and death certificates for the public. After the BBMP office was shifted to another location, the building was demolished and the land became a destination for dumping garbage, overgrown with weeds.

"We have been requesting the BBMP authorities and elected representatives to utilise the vacant land for public convenience. There is no BangaloreOne centre for Halasuru and Jogupalya. It will be a great help for the residents of Halasuru and Jogupalya if the BBMP utilises the vacant land for public use by constructing a new building that serves many purposes," said BR Chandran, a social activist.

Meanwhile, a BBMP assistant executive engineer said that a proposal has been sent for higher authorities concerned to construct a public toilet and a RO plant on the vacant land as there is no public toilet near the BMTC bus stop in the vicinity of the Halasuru metro station.

"The construction of the public toilet and RO plant will begin as soon as the approval is given," the assistant executive engineer said.

Against atrocity

Various organisations, citizens and students gathered at Freedom Park on Saturday to condemn the ongoing violence in Gaza by Israel

Keep public parks open, BBMP urged

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of life in the city. Other residents seemed to agree with Krishna and said they have noticed similar behaviour of authorities concerned at the parks in their locality.

A resident said that he experienced a similar instance in Ulsoor. Another resident noted that residents living in areas surrounding the park in his vicinity tend to prevent children from playing 'due to the noise', defeating the purpose of the park.

In 2022, the issue of park timings became a controversy after instances of local residents closing park premises from 10 am to 5 pm came to light. Reports of gig workers, pourakarmikas and daily wagers being banned from using the amenities within parks had caused outrage from civil society groups.

To make the matter clear, BBMP chief commissioner, Tushar Giri Nath, in July 2022, issued an order mandating the parks department to keep the gates open between 5 am and 8 pm, with a closure period from 11 am to 1:30 pm for maintenance.

Usha Rani, a resident who lives opposite to a BBMP park in Chandra Layout, said BBMP must deploy more security personnel to ensure that illegal activities do not take place within the premises.

"The area surrounding the park is very quiet; residents have often spotted miscreants misusing the premises for consuming alcohol and other illegal activities, naturally raising concerns for their security.

If BBMP ensures adequate security, it would make residents living in the surroundings of the park feel comfortable enough for the parks to be open throughout the entire day," she said.

She further said that the parks can be kept open throughout the day on weekends as it will allow children to make use of the facility, adding that the current time structure best serves senior citizens only.

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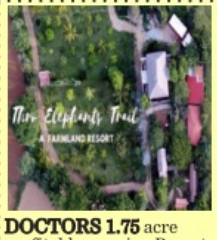

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, VEERESHA A S/o. Baalasubramanyam A, residing at No. 96/1A, Beside KEB, Datthanagara, Kechinabandi Road, Near Panduranga Swamy Temple, Hagaribommanahalli, Vijayanagara Dist.-583212, have changed my name to VEERESHA AKETI, vide affidavit dated 17.11.2023, sworn before notary H. Sathyanarayana, Hagaribommanahalli.

I, RASMITA KUMARI LIMA W/o Narendra Reddy, residing at No.1/9, Yanagundi Village, Yanagundi, Kalaburagi, Karnataka-585214 have changed my name to RASMITA REDDY, vide affidavit dated 12.11.2023 sworn before notary Y.V Shankar, B.lore.

I, MOHAMMED SADIQ, R/a. Kondangeri Village and Post Halugunda, Virajpet TQ. Kdagu -571211. I, have changed my name to MOHAMMAD SADIQ JOHIPORE ABDUL SALAM, S/O. Abdul Salam Johipore Ahamed Vide affidavit dated 02/12/2023 Sworn before Notary: Meer Hassan, Bangalore

I Somashekhar Hosahalli S/O. Bheemanagouda Hosahalli R/o 3/1, 4th Main, 7th Cross, Byraveshwara Nagara Nagarabhavi Road, Bengaluru have changed my name to Somashekhar Bheemanagouda Hosahalli.

I, Shivani Singh Dhan Singh Chauhan D/o D Dhan Singh R/o #2093 Sobha Indraprastha, Minerva Mills , Rajaji Nagar B'lore -560023 have changed my name to Shivani C for all purposes.

I, Sweety W/o, Manish Kumar R/o No 1/2 3rd Cross Near 119 Bus Stop Marappa Garden Benson Town Bangalore 560046 have changed my name to Sweety Jain for all purposes.

I, Prameela K W/o Sh. Eswar Kalyan Kollu R/o Flat-504, MHADA 20D, Powai Panchratna CHS, Powai have changed my name to Prameela Kollu for all future purposes.

I, Kakarla Kumari W/o, Kakarla Suresh Babu R/o 15-116-21, Ramagopal Naidu Street Madanapalle 517325 Ap have changed my name to Kakarla Krishna Kumari for all purposes.

I PUSHPAVATHI MADHAVAR D/O Late POUL MADHAVARAM, have changed my name from PUSHPAVATHI MADHAVAR to PUSHPAVATHI MADHAVARAM, for all future purposes.

I, Thaj Sulthana R/at No 8th Ward Near Nethaji Circle Bagepalli Chikkaballapur 561207 Have Changed My Name to Taj Sultana for all Purposes.

I, Bashir Ahmed R/at No 8th Ward Near Nethaji Circle Bage palli Chikkaballapur 561207 have changed my name to Basheer Ahmed all Purposes.

I Owize R/at No 101 Ashoka Enclave Nethaji Road Frazer Town Bangalore 560005 Have Changed My Name to Owaiz a for all Purposes.

LOST & FOUND

I, Suresh M Residing at No 49 1st Main 1st Cross Kumaraswamy Layout Bangalore 560078. I Lost Documents In BBMP OFFICE, Name Of Document/ Article : Site Registration Paper, Document No./ Identification : 84/A. Police Complaint No : 0831207/ 2023, Dated 01/12/2023. If Anybody Found The Above Said Documents Please Contact Nearby Police Station Or Call : 9945847071

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DP's skills — Holidaying in London, Bollywood star Deepika Padukone turned hairstylist for her friend. Deepika's friend Sneha took to her Instagram stories, where she posted a picture getting her hair done by the 'Padmaavat' star

Sickly love

ANAVARANA

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** B K Harish Kumar and Manjunath Pillappa
- **ACTORS** Arjun Yogi, Sarika Rao, Nandagopal, Gaurish Akki, Honnavalli
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 135 minutes

Anavarana, helmed by two directors, is about how people with obsessive love disorder (OLD) trouble others. But some sequences, make it clear that there was no coordination between the two directors.

The movie begins with a boy finding a woman's dead body at an isolated place. Police Inspector Rakshan Appachira (Nandagopal) visits the spot. The police suspect the deceased is Nyja (Sarika Rao), the wife of Nishanth (Arjun Yogi) who works as an architect at a private company.

While the police inspector is busy with the investigation of Nyja's murder, one more murder takes place. The police inspector successfully nabs Bhimesh, a newspaper boy who is addicted to cricket betting, for the murder of that woman, who used to live alone. Later, the police inspector meets Nishanth as part of the investigation of Nyja's murder. Nishanth claims that his wife Nyja is alive. What happens to Nishanth, who the deceased is and who is the killer is what Anavarana is all about.

The main drawback of the movie is poor cinematography. Comedy scenes do not serve any purpose as they fail to tickle the funny bones. The directors could even have cut out some unnecessary characters, like that of a police constable and his wife. Action scenes are too over the top too.

As far as the performance go, Arjun Yogi has acted well. His acting, as a good human being and concerned beautiful. Gaurish Akki is convincing as a villain. Honnavalli Krishna and Aravind provide good support.

If crime dramas are your thing, go for it!.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Message on a tee

We can't help reading between the lines of Ananya's tee-shirt

Love is in the air for Bollywood stars Ananya Panday and Aditya Roy Kapur, and the latest clue comes from none other than Ananya herself! The couple has been spotted together on various occasions, sparking dating rumours that have kept fans buzzing. On December 2, Ananya Panday was seen at the airport, and it wasn't just her travel style that caught everyone's eye.

In her recent airport appearance, Ananya was rocking a coordinated pink outfit, keeping it casual with open hair and a no-makeup look. However, what stole the spotlight was her custom-made top with 'Kapur' written in Hindi. As she strolled towards her car, Ananya not only posed for paparazzi but also took the time to click pictures with fans, adding more fuel to the dating speculations.

This isn't the first time the two have made headlines.

During a previous appearance on Koffee With Karan 8 alongside Sara Ali Khan, Ananya had referred to Aditya as her 'best friend' when asked about the dating rumours.

When questioned about managing her nights, she humorously replied, "Honestly, as well as my days. I think both my nights and days managed pretty well."

The show's host, Karan Johar, cheekily inquired if she had been a bit 'gumrah' (misled) in love, to which Ananya responded with a playful, "You know that's how Aashiqui (love) happens, but..." before stopping herself with a laugh.

Adding a fun twist to the conversation, Karan asked Sara Ali Khan what Ananya had that she didn't. Sara's witty response, "Night Manager," led to Ananya jokingly declaring, "I am feeling very Ananya Coy Kapur."

Fans can catch Ananya Panday in action in Netflix's 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan,' where she stars alongside Siddhant Chaturvedi and Adarsh Gourav.

—ETimes

What spooked Julia out

Actress Julia Roberts was too "scared" to read the 'Leave the World Behind' novel and couldn't open the book after dark.

The 56-year-old actress stars opposite Ethan Hawke in psychological thriller 'Leave the World Behind' and though director Sam Esmail sent her a copy of Rumaan Alam's original novel, she wasn't able to read it after dark because she was so freaked out by the story. Speaking on 'The Graham Norton Show', she said: "I was sent the book by the director who told me I would love it and to read it as fast as I can, but I couldn't because it was scaring me and as soon as it got dark, I had to get away from it. The film is spooky and frightening but so good."

Former US President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle have produced the movie through their Higher Ground company and Julia was "very excited" to have them on board, reports femalefirst.com.

She said: "They are brilliant people and great human beings who have made the world a better place so when they said they were interested in collaborating on the film, I was very excited." **— IANS**

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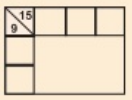
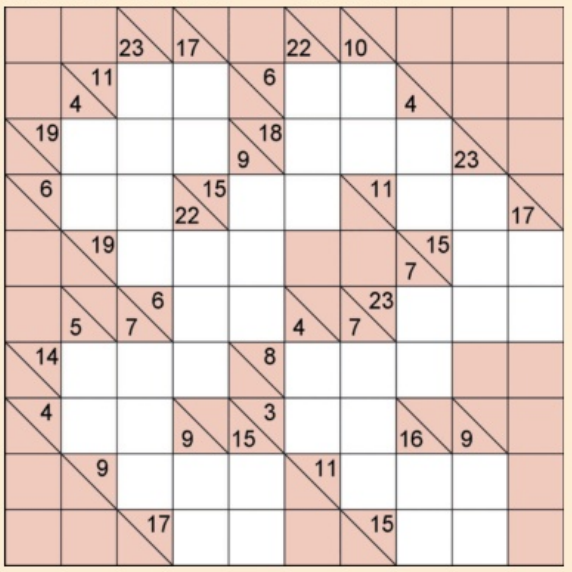
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

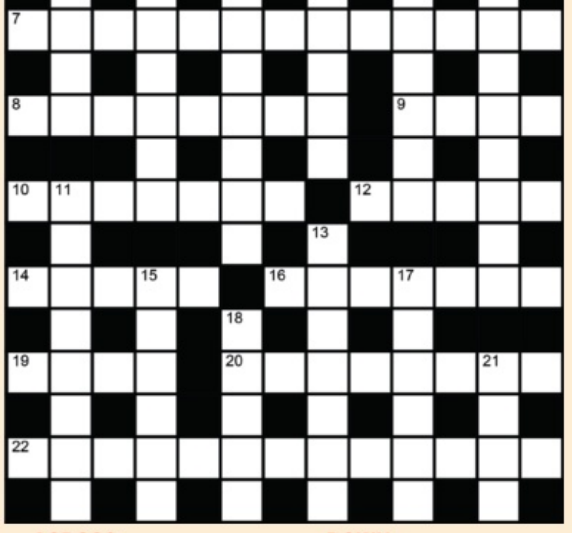


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Disappointing, especially in movies (13)
8 Ambitious sort (2-6)
9 Unsightly (4)
10 Gulp down (7)
12 Unable to see (5)
14 Serpent (5)
16 Most unfeeling (7)
19 Of Indian or local origin (4)
20 Enraged (8)
22 The beginning and the end? (5,3,5)

DOWN

1 Reverse (4)
2 Being directly descended from an ancestor (6)
3 Greedy person (7)
4 Former Arsenal head coach Unai ___ (5)
5 Real or existing? (6)
6 Air India, Lufthansa, Indigo, etc (8)
11 Amusement park on the Bangalore-Mysore highway (8)
13 Acknowledge, confess or own up (7)
15 Galahad or Gawain, for two (6)
17 Jeans? (6)
18 Italian city (5)
21 Therefore; hence (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS G

OZZ SE OQHZV ZBNM KMJKZM IOWM AMMU IMZKBUP SM.-LVMKIMU IOCYBUP

Linemaro

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate

Mindchow

When there is no enemy within, the enemies outside cannot hurt you

Joke of the day

I saw a subliminal advertising executive, but only for a second

Loop

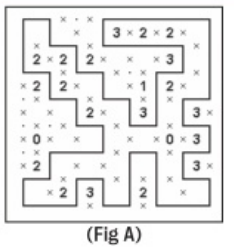
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

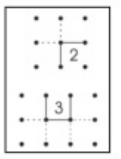
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

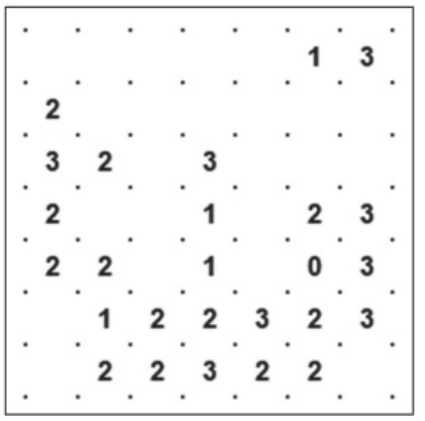
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



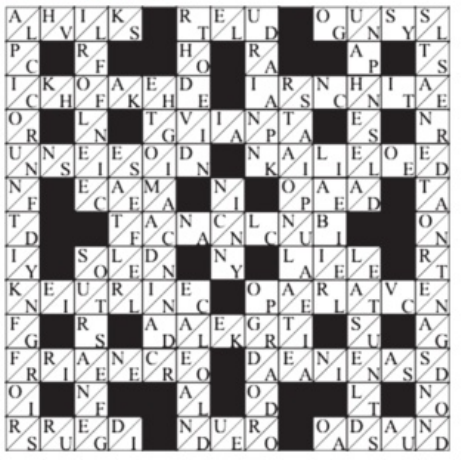
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set....

1	2	3 H	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 He cad; 6 Eva in; 7 Nun me; 8 Suing; 9 Olent

DOWN

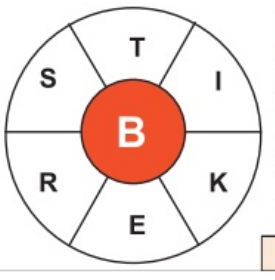
1 Nu Lan; 2 Sauce; 3 Hi men (3,2); 4 VE Net; 5 God in

Mensapuzzle

What letter is two letters to the right of the letter two letters above the letter four letters to the left of the letter Z?

A	B	C	D	E	
F	G	H	I	J	
K	L	M	N	O	
P	Q	R	S	T	
U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; 08 Good; 10 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		8	5		9	4		
	4						9	
9			2		8			5
7			8		1			3
		4		7		1		
8			9		4			7
5			1		2			4
	3						2	
		9	3		6	5		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 20
4 5 5 6

Medium = 15
2 5 5 7

Hard = 7
3 4 5 4

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Paper is longer. 2. Desk front is different. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Shirt stripes are different. 5. Nose is different. 6. Back of chair is different.

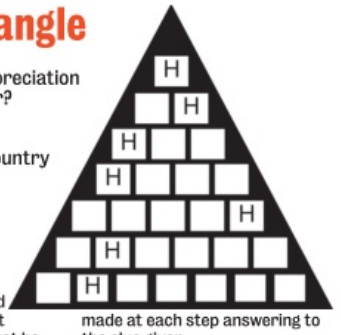
Riddler

In this teaser you have two tasks to complete. Firstly, the following list has two words missing. You are to complete the series by inserting the correct words. Secondly, you need to name what this list is about.

Limbo, Lustful, ?, Misers & Spendthrifts, Wrathful & Sullen, Heretics, ?, Fraudulent, Traitors

Alpha triangle

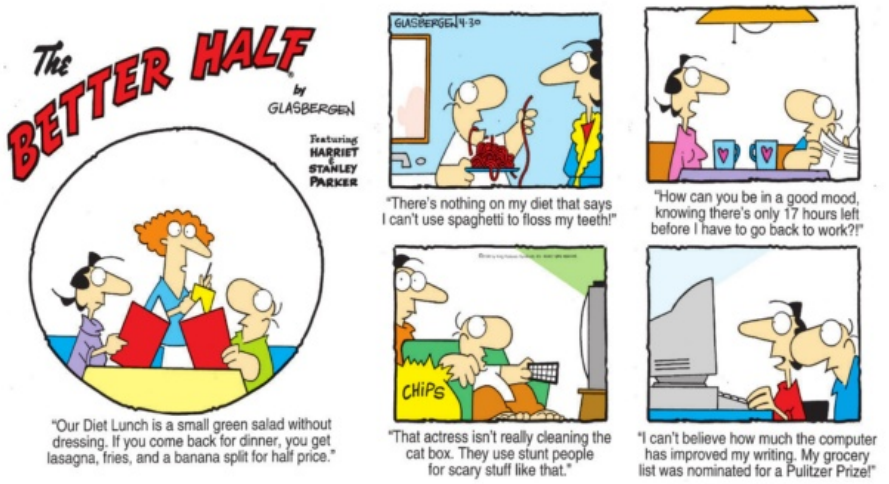
1 8th letter
2 Expression of appreciation
3 Stetson or bowler?
4 Warmth
5 Our planet
6 Ancient Balkan country
7 Jabber

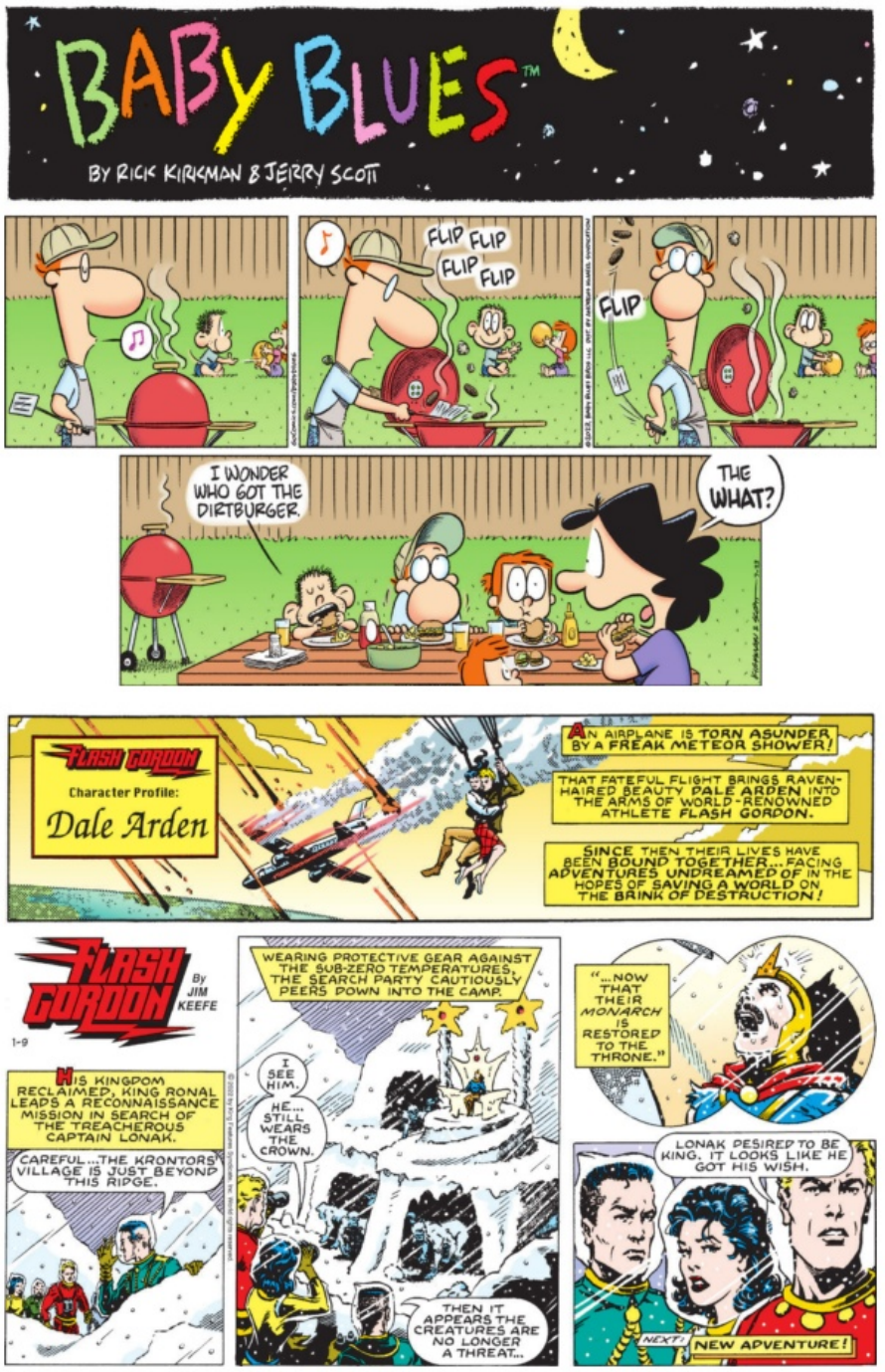


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
GLASBERGEN 4-30
"Our Diet Lunch is a small green salad without dressing. If you come back for dinner, you get lasagna, fries, and a banana split for half price."
"There's nothing on my diet that says I can't use spaghetti to floss my teeth!"
"How can you be in a good mood, knowing there's only 17 hours left before I have to go back to work?!"
CHIPS
"That actress isn't really cleaning the cat box. They use stunt people for scary stuff like that."
"I can't believe how much the computer has improved my writing. My grocery list was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize!"


BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
FLIP FLIP FLIP FLIP
FLIP
I WONDER WHO GOT THE DIRTBURGER.
THE WHAT?
FLASH GORDON
Character Profile:
Dale Arden
AN AIRPLANE IS TORN ASUNDER BY A FREAK METEOR SHOWER!
THAT FATEFUL FLIGHT BRINGS RAVEN-HAIRED BEAUTY DALE ARDEN INTO THE ARMS OF WORLD-RENOWNED ATHLETE FLASH GORDON.
SINCE THEN THEIR LIVES HAVE BEEN BOUND TOGETHER...FACING ADVENTURES UNDREAMED OF IN THE HOPES OF SAVING A WORLD ON THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION!
FLASH GORDON
By JIM KEEFE
1-9
HIS KINGDOM RECLAIMED, KING RONAL LEADS A RECONNAISSANCE MISSION IN SEARCH OF THE TREACHEROUS CAPTAIN LONAK.
CAREFUL...THE KRONTORS' VILLAGE IS JUST BEYOND THIS RIDGE.
WEARING PROTECTIVE GEAR AGAINST THE SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES, THE SEARCH PARTY CAUTIOUSLY PEERS DOWN INTO THE CAMP.
I SEE HIM.
HE... STILL WEARS THE CROWN.
THEN IT APPEARS THE CREATURES ARE NO LONGER A THREAT...
"...NOW THAT THEIR MONARCH IS RESTORED TO THE THRONE."
LONAK DESIRED TO BE KING. IT LOOKS LIKE HE GOT HIS WISH.
NEXT! NEW APVENTURE!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be very happy and busy at work. Your seniors may appreciate your work, and there might be changes in your position or responsibilities, possibly in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control. Singles and love birds may make important marriage decisions with the help of relatives or friends.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, the messy situation from the last days is under control. You are blessed by the moon, and you may initiate postponed work, getting rewards for your hard work. Business gains may boost your finances, and you may spend money on artefacts or literature. Enjoying chanting mantras or meditation is also indicated.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be busy with family issues and explore extra sources of income. Taking an interest in artefacts, movies, and glamour may improve your creativity. Love birds have a clear view of their relationships, and students can move forward towards their career goals.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may not feel well and might experience health issues affecting your profession and domestic life. Spouse's health issues may upset you, and patience will be tested. Avoid making investments in new business projects to prevent potential losses. Students are advised to work hard and avoid distractions.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon, feeling healthy, and old health issues may be cured. Stuck funds may likely be recovered, and you may apply for a loan to purchase luxury items.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel dull, leading to laziness and carelessness. Unfocused work and impatience may negatively impact you. Kids' and spouse's health issues may be upsetting, and it's advised to avoid investments in assets. Love birds should avoid arguments in family matters.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, negative vibrations may surround you, causing unhappiness. Avoid investing in worthless assets and don't expect much support from friends. Follow intuition before making important decisions.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may successfully implement business plans with the support of subordinates. Involvement in social or family gatherings may boost your network, and short business-related travels may bring future benefits.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today is a good day with positive financial health. Benefits from past investments and control over unnecessary spending may boost savings. Love birds are advised to be polite to avoid conflicts.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, making it a good day. Enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, improve family harmony, and plan new projects. Job aspirants may find a good job. Love birds should avoid discussions on worthless topics.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, disappointment may arise. Control arrogance to prevent losses due to speaking harshly. Love birds should be careful in discussions to avoid affecting their relationship.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and new sources of income may open up. Past investments will start paying off, converting losses into profits and boosting your financial health. Health issues related to parents may be resolved.

KIDZONE

Bala Krishna, 13 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Anushika V, 7 Years, KLE Society School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(√(√(8-1-6))^2√)^2/289=
(√(√(8-7))^2√)^2/289=
(√(√(1))^2√)^2/289=
√7/√7=1

BULL'S EYE
best, bestir, bier, bike, bite, biter, brisk, BRISKET, tribe

FAST FIVE

L	E	N	T	O
U	S	I	N	G
N	U	M	E	N
A	C	H	E	D

QUOTE UNCODE
All my adult life people have been helping me. – Stephen Hawking

STRIKE OUT

A	V	I	S	R	E	D	G	U	Y	S				
C	R	O	P	T										
C	H	O	K	E	D	I	S	C	H	I	A			
O	N	G	I	A	N	T	E	N						
U	N	I	S	O	N	K	I	L	L	E	D			
N	C	A	M	I	P	A	D	T						
T	F	A	N	C	L	U	B	O						
I	S	E	N	Y	L	E	E	R						
N	I	T	R	I	C	P	A	L	A	C	E			
G	R	A	L	E	R	T	S	A						
F	I	A	N	C	E	A	E	N	E	A	S			
D	E	S	I	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	D			
S	N	A	K	E	C	O	L	D	E	S	T			
S	W	A	L	L	O	W	B	L	I	N	D			
G	O	G	E	T	T	E	R	U	G	L	Y			
A	N	T	I	C	L	I	M	A	C	T	I	C		
A	L	P	H	A	N	D	O	M	E	G	A			
R	U	E	D	N	E	O	A	S	A	N				

QUICK

U	L	G	E	A	A									
A	T	N	E	S	O									
A	T		A											
A	N	T	I	C	L	I	M	A	C	T	I	C		
D	N	U	E	T	R									
G	O	G	E	T	T	E	R	U	G	L	Y			
N	O	T	E											
S	W	A	L	L	O	W	B	L	I	N	D			
O	N	C	E											
S	N	A	K	E	C	O	L	D	E	S	T			
D	N	M	E											
D	E	S	I	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	D			
R	G	L	E	I	R									
F	I	A	N	C	E	A	E	N	E	A	S			
G	R	A	L	E	R	T	S	A						
N	I	T	R	I	C	P	A	L	A	C	E			
I	S	E	N	Y	L	E	E	R						
T	F	A	N	C	L	U	B	O						
N	C	A	M	I	P	A	D	T						
U	N	I	S	O	N	K	I	L	L	E	D			
O	N	G	I	A	N	T	E	N						
C	H	O	K	E	D	I	S	C	H	I	A			
C	R	O	P											
A	V	I	S	R	E	D	G	U	Y	S				

MENSA PUZZLE
N.

RIDDLER
The series of 9 circles of Hell imagined by the medieval writer Dante (1265–1321): Limbo, Lustful, Gluttonous, Misers & Spendthrifts, Wrathful & Sullen, Heretics, Violent, Fraudulent & Traitors

SUDOKU

4	2	9	3	8	6	5	7	1
6	3	1	4	5	7	8	2	9
5	8	7	1	9	2	3	6	4
8	1	2	9	3	4	6	5	7
3	9	4	6	7	5	1	8	2
7	5	6	8	2	1	9	4	3
9	6	3	2	4	8	7	1	5
1	4	5	7	6	3	2	9	8
2	7	8	5	1	9	4	3	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
H, Ah, Hat, Heat, Earth, Thrace, Chatter.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 6 + 5 + 4 = 20
Medium
5 x 2 – 7 x 5 = 15
Hard
5 – 4 x 4 + 3 = 7

KAKURO

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HEALTH TIP: Lemon water with honey balances the pH level of the body and reduces acidity

Whole wheat bread, brown rice, oatmeal, etc., should be included in the diet to control acid reflux

BangaloreMirror | 16
Sunday, December 3, 2023
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All you need to know about...

Dopamine

Decision-making
Scientists are studying dopamine to understand decision-making and human behaviour.

What dopamine does
Dopamine is a neurotransmitter produced in the brain that serves as a chemical messenger, facilitating communication between nerve cells in the brain and the body.
It is involved in functions such as movement, cognition and learning. While dopamine is most known for its association with positive emotions, scientists are also exploring its role in negative experiences.

Reward, punishment
The new study published in the journal Science Advances shows that dopamine release in the human brain plays a crucial role in encoding both reward and punishment prediction errors.
This means that dopamine is involved in the process of learning from both positive and negative experiences, allowing the brain to adjust and adapt its behaviour based on the outcomes of these experiences.

AI research
"This is the first study in humans to examine how dopamine encodes rewards and punishments and whether dopamine reflects an 'optimal' teaching signal that is used in today's most advanced artificial intelligence research," Kenneth T Kishida, Wake Forest University School of Medicine in the US, said.
Kishida said the study showed that dopamine not only plays a role in signalling both positive and negative experiences in the brain, but it seems to do so in a way that is optimal when trying to learn from those outcomes.
"Our results reveal a surprising result that these two pathways may encode rewarding and punishing experiences on slightly shifted timescales separated by only 200 to 400 milliseconds in time," Kishida said. — IANS

WINTER IS COMING

So, can heart-warming dishes be far behind?

SWEETCORN FRITTERS

INGREDIENTS
- Chickpea flour 250 gm
- Corn Starch 120 gm
- Baking Soda 12 gm
- Glutinous Rice Flour 200 gm
- Salt 50 gm
- Water 1000 ml
- Sweetcorn 100 gm

METHOD
- Mix both the flours in a large bowl
- Add baking soda, salt, sweet corn kernels and normal water and mix.
- Cut the dough into triangular shapes
- Heat oil in a pan over medium heat for 2 minutes
- Fry and flip the fritters to ensure both sides are evenly golden brown

PAPPAROTI

INGREDIENTS
DOUGH
- Flour T55 Gm 1000
- Butter Gm 120
- Yeast Gm 40
- Gluten Gm 40
- Improver Gm 10
- Sugar Gm 150
- Eggs Gm 100
- Salt Gm 10
- Milk Powder Gm 40
- Milk Gm 540

TOPPING
- Butter Gm 1000
- Icing Sugar Gm 800
- Eggs Gm 700
- Flour Gm 1000
- Nescafe Gm 12
- Espresso Gm 30
- Cinnamon Powder Gm 20
- Butter for Filling Gm 1000

METHOD
- Make the dough with all the ingredients and let it for table top resting for one hour.
- Divide the dough 40 gm each and shape it and keep it for resting for 15 minutes
- Then stuff each dough with 20 gm of butter and put it for resting for one and half hour
- Now make the topping by creaming butter and icing sugar, then add eggs slowly.
- Now mix Nescafe with espresso and add it to the batter, fold all the dry ingredients
- Now pipe the topping mixture on top of the proofed Doug, and bake it for 18 to 20 minutes at 180c
- Serve it hot

BURMESE COCONUT RICE

INGREDIENTS
- Jasmine Rice 1.5 cups
- Coconut Milk 0.5 cups
- Finely chopped shallots 1.5
- Salt 0.5 tsp
- Crushed Saffron 3 gm
- Cloves 2
- Cinnamon Sticks 1
- Bay leaves 2

METHOD
- Rinse the rice and transfer to the rice cooker
- Add saffron and coconut milk to the rice cooker then water until it reaches the 3-cup mark of the rice cooker
- Add vegetable oil, finely chopped shallots, salt, spices and bay leaves, then stir to combine everything well
- Close the lid of the rice cooker and press on 'cook'
- After cooking, let the rice sit for a few minutes, then open the cover and give it a swirl to fluff it up. Close the lid again and leave to steam for another ten minutes or so.

Garnish
- Serve with Burmese curries and refreshing salads

By Chef Anup Sreshta, Societe Rangoon; Avishek Singha, Executive Pastry Chef, Bengaluru Marriott Hotel Whitefield